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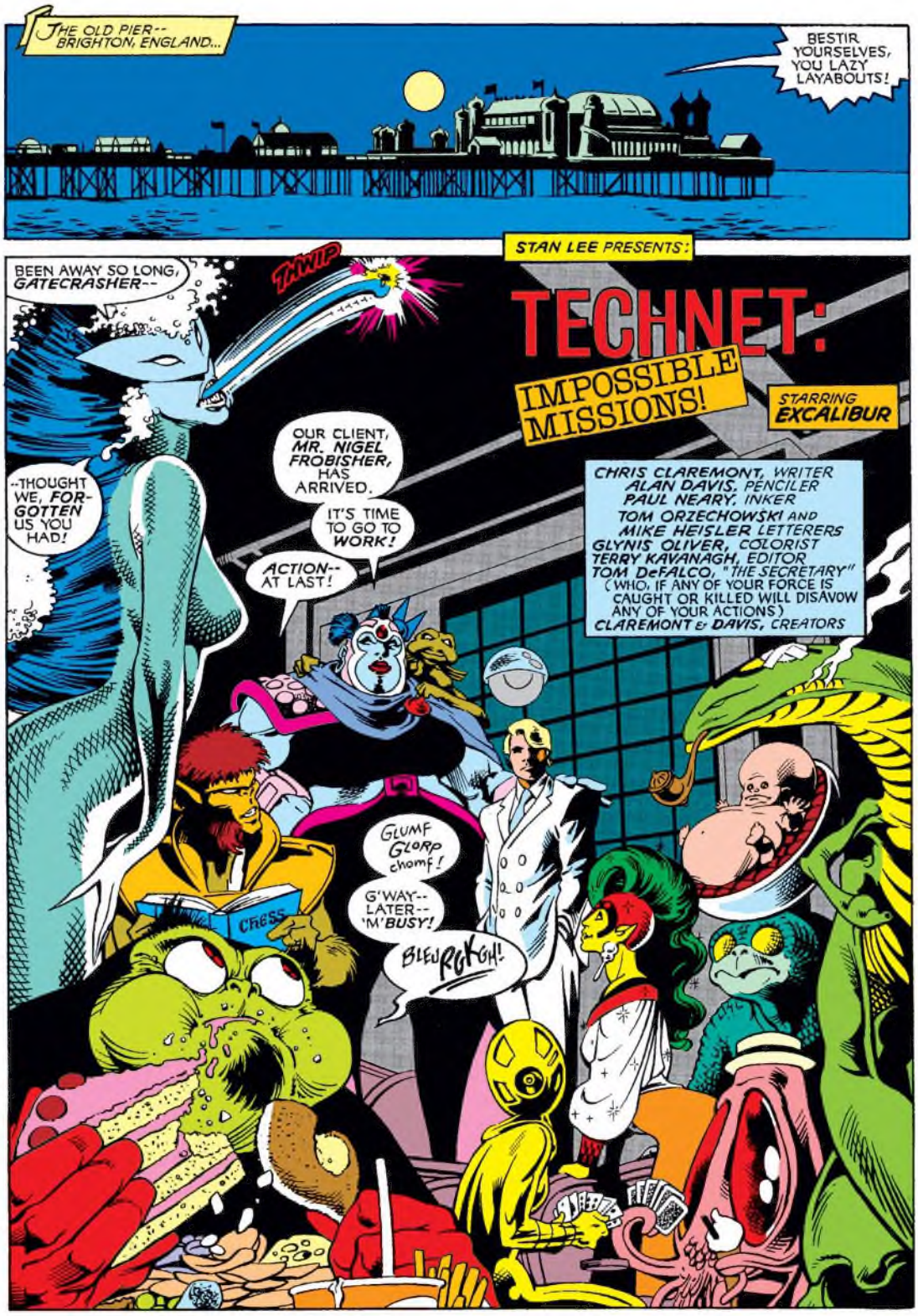
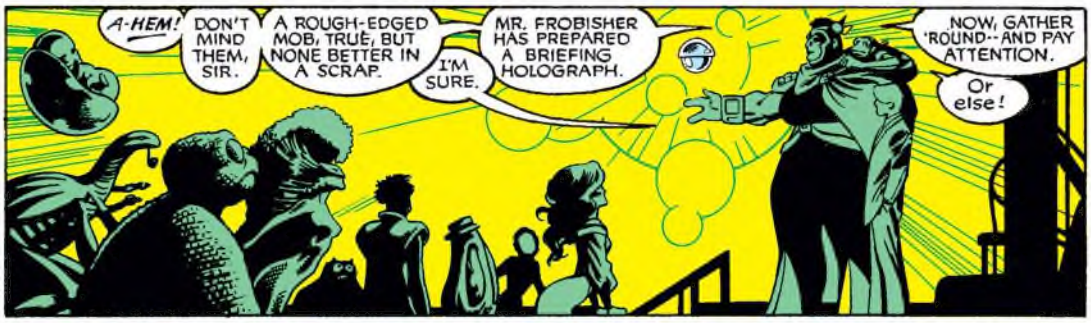
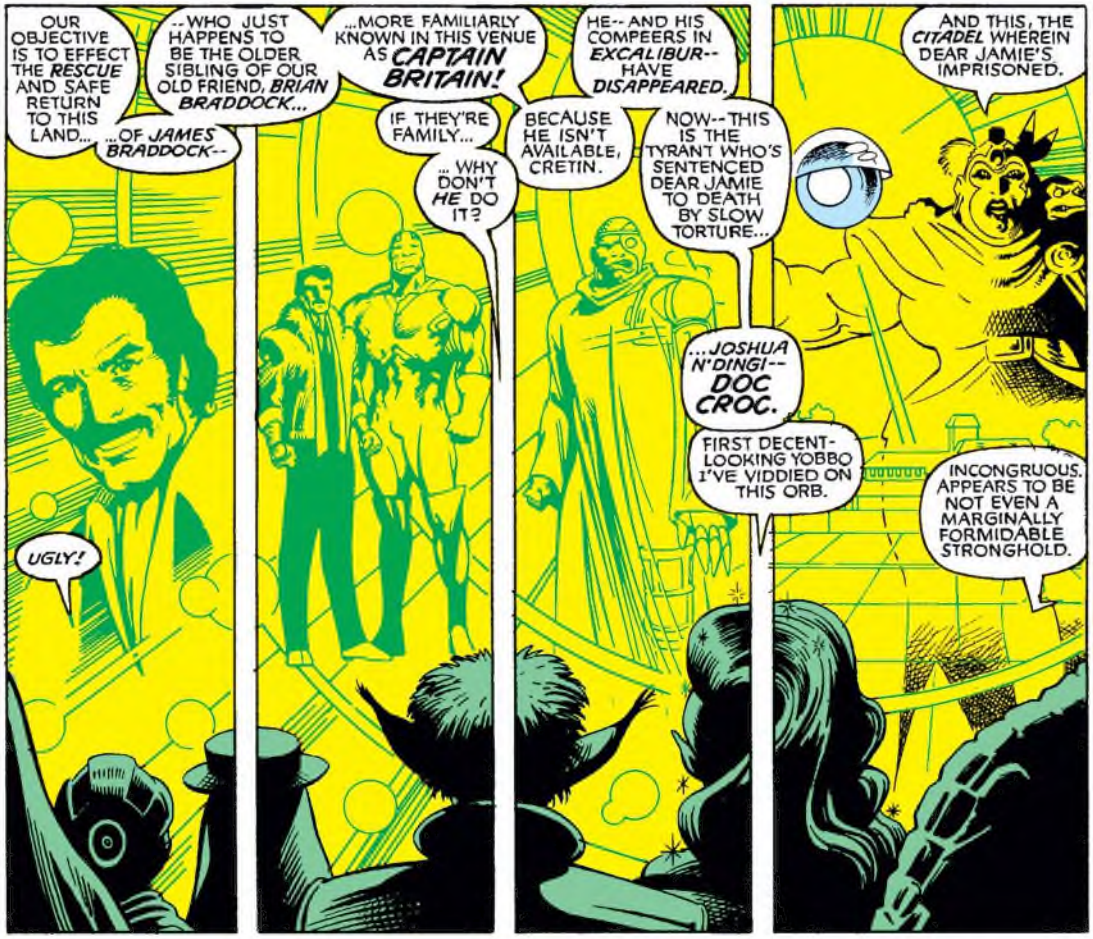
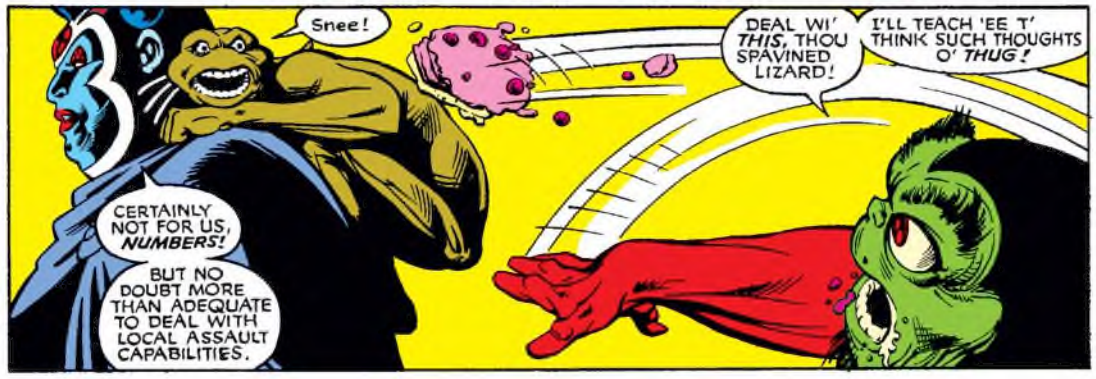
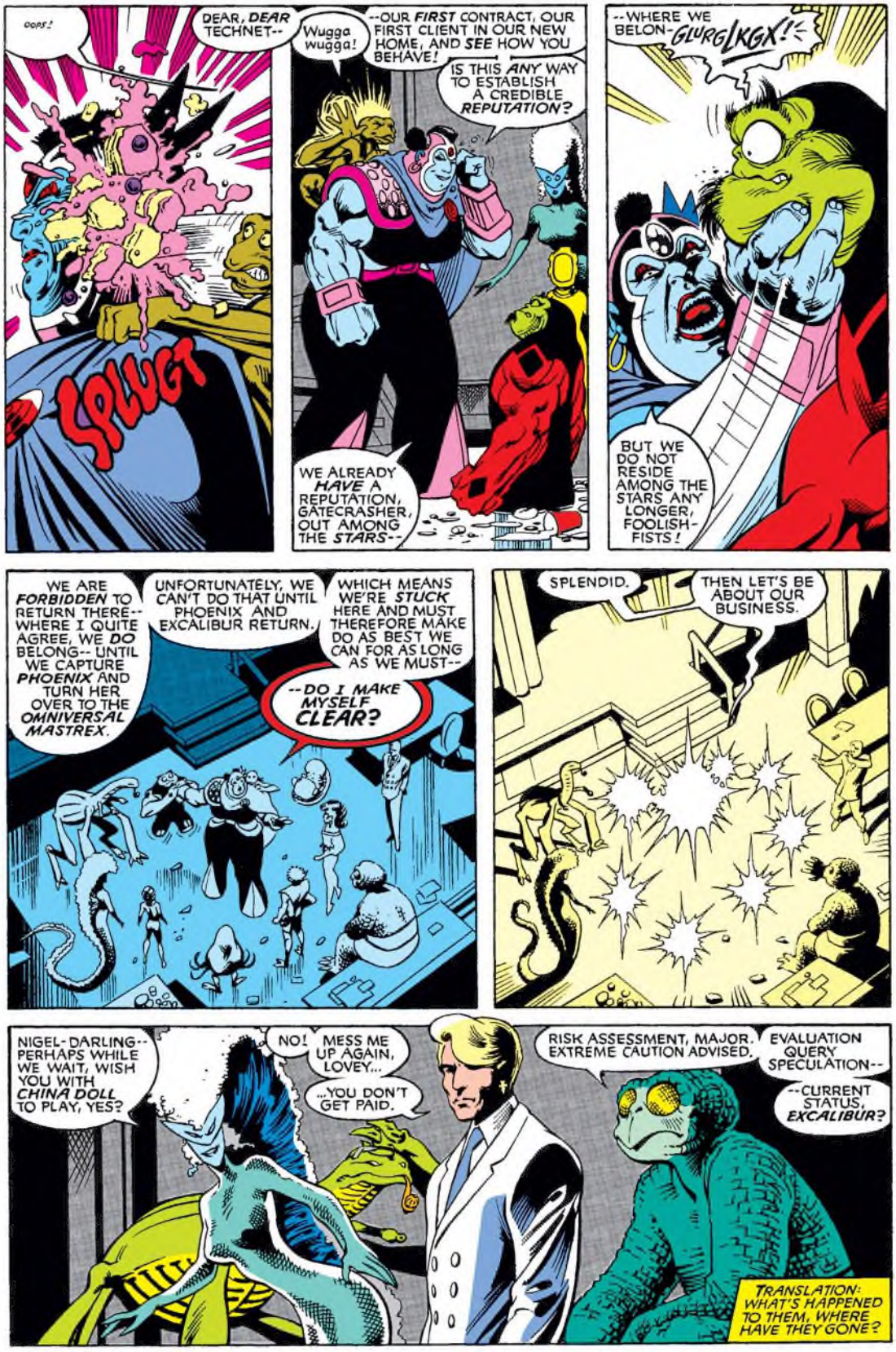
AUTHORITY
THE CROSS-TIME CAPER
EXCALIBUR
TM
ALAN DAVIS & NEBAY

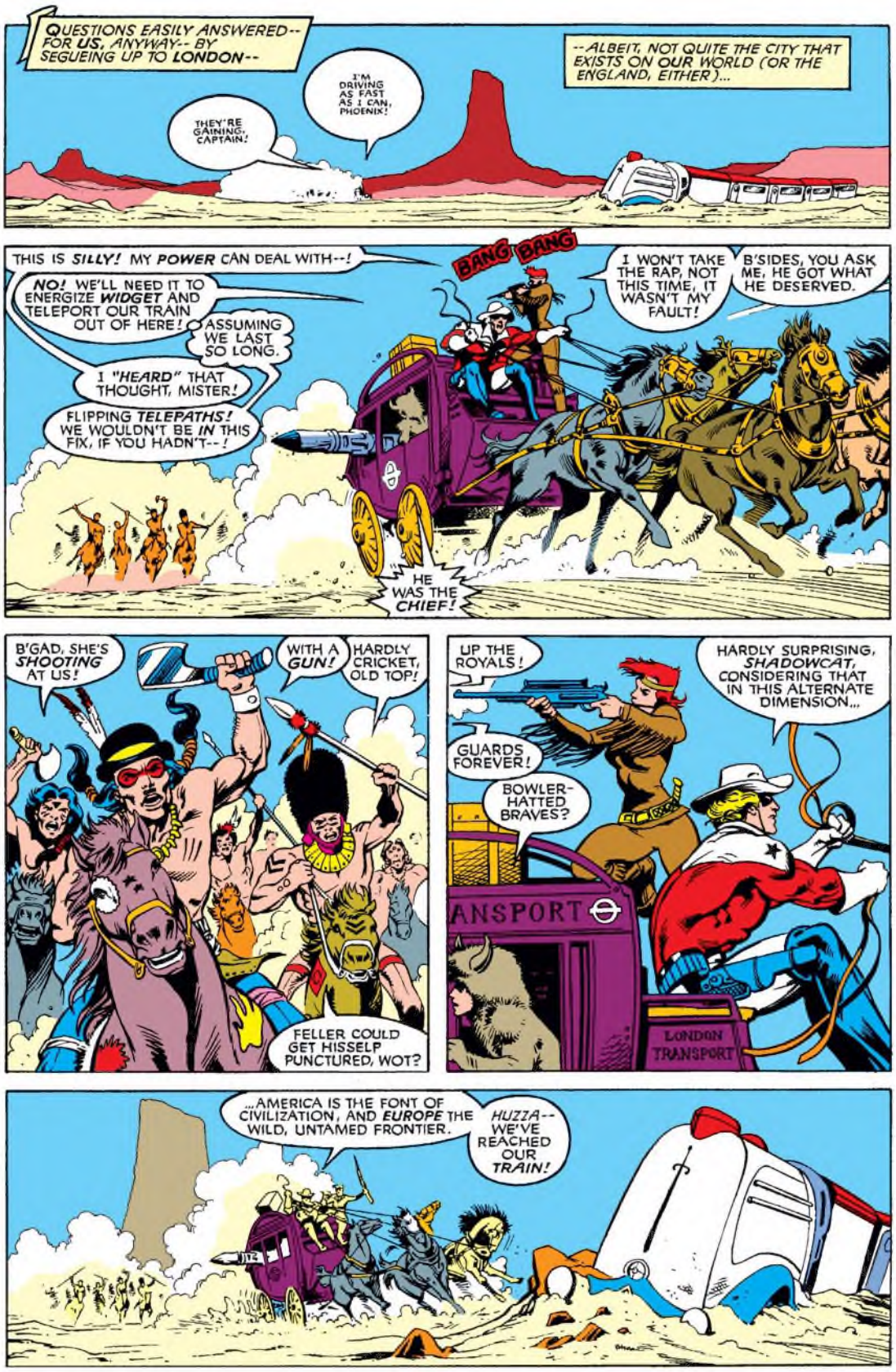

THE OLD PIER-- BRIGHTON, ENGLAND...
BESTIR YOURSELVES, YOU LAZY LAYABOUTS!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TECHNET:
IMPOSSIBLE MISSIONS!
STARRING EXCALIBUR
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
ALAN DAVIS, PENCILER
PAUL NEARY, INKER
TOM ORZECHOWSKI AND MIKE HEISLER LETTERERS
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TERRY KAVANAGH, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, "THE SECRETARY" (WHO, IF ANY OF YOUR FORCE IS CAUGHT OR KILLED WILL DISAVOW ANY OF YOUR ACTIONS)
CLAREMONT & DAVIS, CREATORS
BEEN AWAY SO LONG, GATECRASHER--
THWIP
--THOUGHT WE, FORGOTTEN US YOU HAD!
OUR CLIENT, MR. NIGEL FROBISHER, HAS ARRIVED.
IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK!
ACTION-- AT LAST!
GLUMF GLORP chomf!
G'WAY-- LATER-- 'M BUSY!
BLEURGKGH!
CHESS


A-HEM!
DON'T MIND THEM, SIR.
A ROUGH-EDGED MOB, TRUE, BUT NONE BETTER IN A SCRAP.
I'M SURE.
MR. FROBISHER HAS PREPARED A BRIEFING HOLOGRAPH.
NOW, GATHER 'ROUND--AND PAY ATTENTION.
Or else!


OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO EFFECT THE RESCUE AND SAFE RETURN TO THIS LAND...
...OF JAMES BRADDOCK--
--WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE OLDER SIBLING OF OUR OLD FRIEND, BRIAN BRADDOCK...
...MORE FAMILIARLY KNOWN IN THIS VENUE AS CAPTAIN BRITAIN!
IF THEY'RE FAMILY...
... WHY DON'T HE DO IT?
HE--AND HIS COMPEERS IN EXCALIBUR--HAVE DISAPPEARED.
BECAUSE HE ISN'T AVAILABLE, CRETIN.
NOW--THIS IS THE TYRANT WHO'S SENTENCED DEAR JAMIE TO DEATH BY SLOW TORTURE...
...JOSHUA N'DINGI--DOC CROC.
FIRST DECENT-LOOKING YOBBO I'VE VIDDIED ON THIS ORB.
AND THIS, THE CITADEL WHEREIN DEAR JAMIE'S IMPRISONED.
INCONGRUOUS. APPEARS TO BE NOT EVEN A MARGINALLY FORMIDABLE STRONGHOLD.
UGLY!

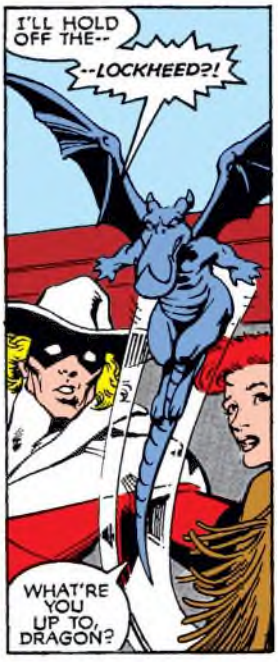

Snee!
CERTAINLY NOT FOR US, NUMBERS!
BUT NO DOUBT MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH LOCAL ASSAULT CAPABILITIES.
DEAL WI' THIS, THOU SPAVINED LIZARD!
I'LL TEACH 'EE T' THINK SUCH THOUGHTS O' THUG!


OOPS!
DEAR, DEAR TECHNET--
SPLUGT
Wugga wugga!
--OUR FIRST CONTRACT, OUR FIRST CLIENT IN OUR NEW HOME, AND SEE HOW YOU BEHAVE!
IS THIS ANY WAY TO ESTABLISH A CREDIBLE REPUTATION?
WE ALREADY HAVE A REPUTATION, GATECRASHER, OUT AMONG THE STARS--
--WHERE WE BELON-GLURGLKGX!
BUT WE DO NOT RESIDE AMONG THE STARS ANY LONGER, FOOLISH-FISTS!
WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO RETURN THERE-- WHERE I QUITE AGREE, WE DO BELONG-- UNTIL WE CAPTURE PHOENIX AND TURN HER OVER TO THE OMNIVERSAL MASTREX.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T DO THAT UNTIL PHOENIX AND EXCALIBUR RETURN.
WHICH MEANS WE'RE STUCK HERE AND MUST THEREFORE MAKE DO AS BEST WE CAN FOR AS LONG AS WE MUST--
--DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
SPLENDID.
THEN LET'S BE ABOUT OUR BUSINESS.
NIGEL-DARLING-- PERHAPS WHILE WE WAIT, WISH YOU WITH CHINA DOLL TO PLAY, YES?
NO!
MESS ME UP AGAIN, LOVEY...
...YOU DON'T GET PAID.
RISK ASSESSMENT, MAJOR. EXTREME CAUTION ADVISED.
EVALUATION QUERY SPECULATION--
--CURRENT STATUS, EXCALIBUR?
TRANSLATION: WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM, WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

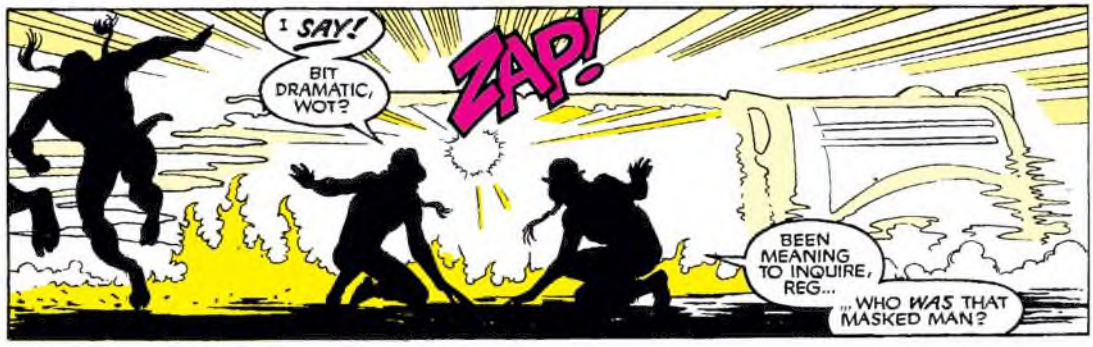

QUESTIONS EASILY ANSWERED-- FOR US, ANYWAY-- BY SEGUEING UP TO LONDON--
--ALBEIT, NOT QUITE THE CITY THAT EXISTS ON OUR WORLD (OR THE ENGLAND, EITHER)...
I'M DRIVING AS FAST AS I CAN, PHOENIX!
THEY'RE GAINING, CAPTAIN!
THIS IS SILLY! MY POWER CAN DEAL WITH--!
NO! WE'LL NEED IT TO ENERGIZE WIDGET AND TELEPORT OUR TRAIN OUT OF HERE!
ASSUMING WE LAST SO LONG.
I "HEARD" THAT THOUGHT, MISTER!
FLIPPING TELEPATHS! WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS FIX, IF YOU HADN'T--!
BANG BANG
I WON'T TAKE THE RAP, NOT THIS TIME, IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
B'SIDES, YOU ASK ME, HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED.
HE WAS THE CHIEF!
B'GAD, SHE'S SHOOTING AT US!
WITH A GUN!
HARDLY CRICKET, OLD TOP!
FELLER COULD GET HISSELF PUNCTURED, WOT?
UP THE ROYALS!
GUARDS FOREVER!
BOWLER-HATTED BRAVES?
HARDLY SURPRISING, SHADOWCAT, CONSIDERING THAT IN THIS ALTERNATE DIMENSION...
ANSPORT
LONDON TRANSPORT
...AMERICA IS THE FONT OF CIVILIZATION, AND EUROPE THE WILD, UNTAMED FRONTIER.
HUZZA-- WE'VE REACHED OUR TRAIN!

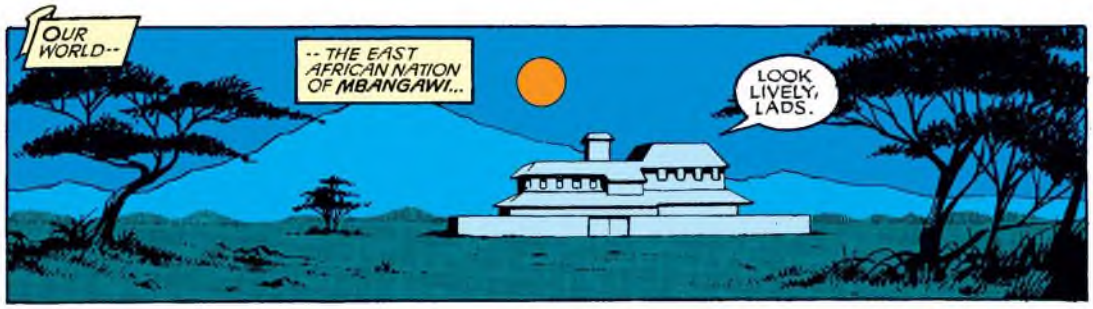
PHOENIX AND I WILL PROVIDE COVER!
EVERYBODY ELSE-- GET ABOARD-- AT THE DOUBLE!
YOU TRY EVEN MOVING IN THIS STUPID SUIT--
--MUCH LESS IN A HURRY!
HAVE A HEART, SOMEONE!
CAN'T YOU CUT ME LOOSE?
LONDON TRAN
AT LEAST YOURS IS ONLY A COSTUME, KITTY!
NO TIME, ALISTAIRE. EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

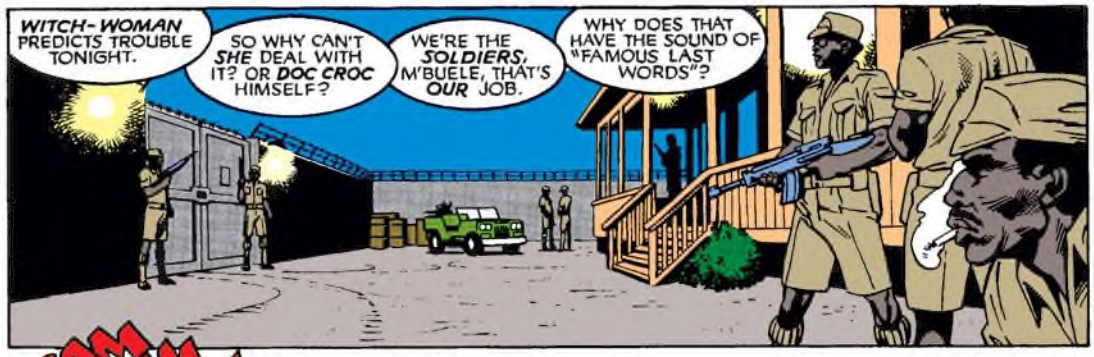
YOU MAKE QUITE AN ATTRACTIVE SALOON HOSTESS, NIGHTCRAWLER.
AND WE, HERR KAPITAN, QUITE THE MOST STRIKING COUPLE ON THE DANCE FLOOR.
WE MUST DO IT AGAIN.
Ah-HEM!
SEE TO WIDGET, PHOENIX.


I'LL HOLD OFF THE--
--LOCKHEED?!
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, DRAGON?

Oh.
ALL RIGHT, DRAGON, YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART.
PHOENIX-- YOUR TURN!
FWOOSH


I SAY!
BIT DRAMATIC, WOT?
ZAP!
BEEN MEANING TO INQUIRE, REG...
...WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

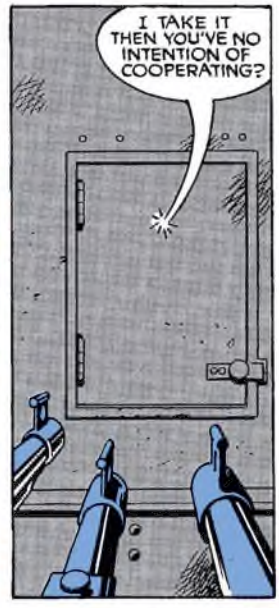

OUR WORLD--
-- THE EAST AFRICAN NATION OF MBANGAWI...
LOOK LIVELY, LADS.


WITCH-WOMAN PREDICTS TROUBLE TONIGHT.
SO WHY CAN'T SHE DEAL WITH IT? OR DOC CROC HIMSELF?
WE'RE THE SOLDIERS, M'BUELE, THAT'S OUR JOB.
WHY DOES THAT HAVE THE SOUND OF "FAMOUS LAST WORDS"?

BAM BAM BAM
HOLD ON HOLD ON DON'T'CHER BUST'CHER GUT...
... I'M COMING.

GOOD EVENING.
I AM GATE-CRASHER.
YOU ARE UNJUSTIFIABLY HOLDING A PRISONER I'VE COME TO RESCUE.

TROUBLE!
SOUND THE ALARM!
SLAM


I TAKE IT THEN YOU'VE NO INTENTION OF COOPERATING?

MORE'S THE PITY.
THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS...
...THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
ZOOPT

NO SHOWBOATING, FERRO?!
JUST CUZ ME BRUVVER GOT KILT WHEN HIS WARRANTY RAN OUT...
...DON'T MEAN I'M THAT THICK.

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
Ahh-- IT DOES MY HEARTS PROUD TO BEHOLD GATE-CRASHER'S TECHNET PERFORMING LIKE A PRECISELY CONFIGURED CIRCUITRY CHIP.

GOOD JOB, WAXWORKS.
YOU, TOO, RINGTOSS.

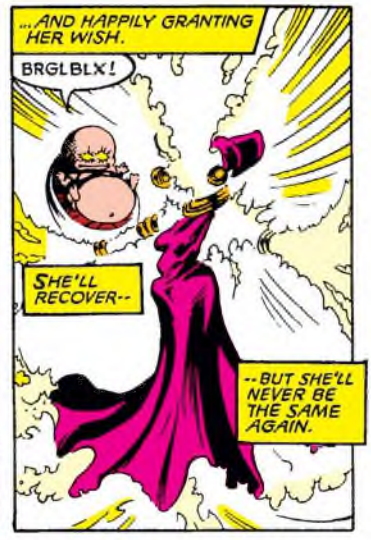
I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR YOU, THUG...
...BUT DO TRY TO KEEP THE FATALITIES TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.
WHY IS'T I'M NEVER ALLOWED T'HAVE ANY FUN?!
ADVERSITY BUILDS CHARACTER.
I'VE BARELY LAID YOUR FOUNDATION.

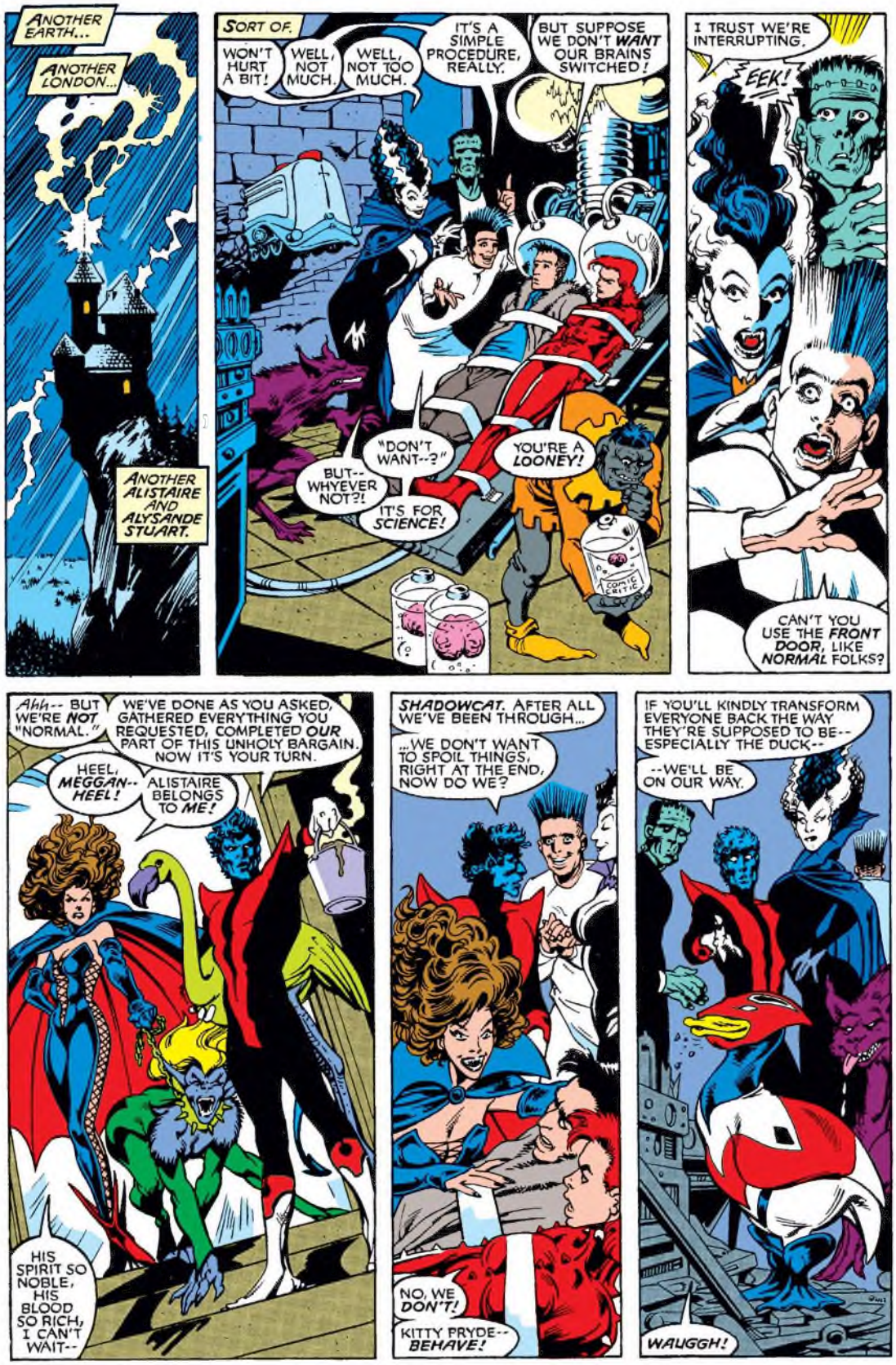
WELL, WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
SCATTERBRAIN...
...I BELIEVE THIS WORTHY IS ALL YOURS.

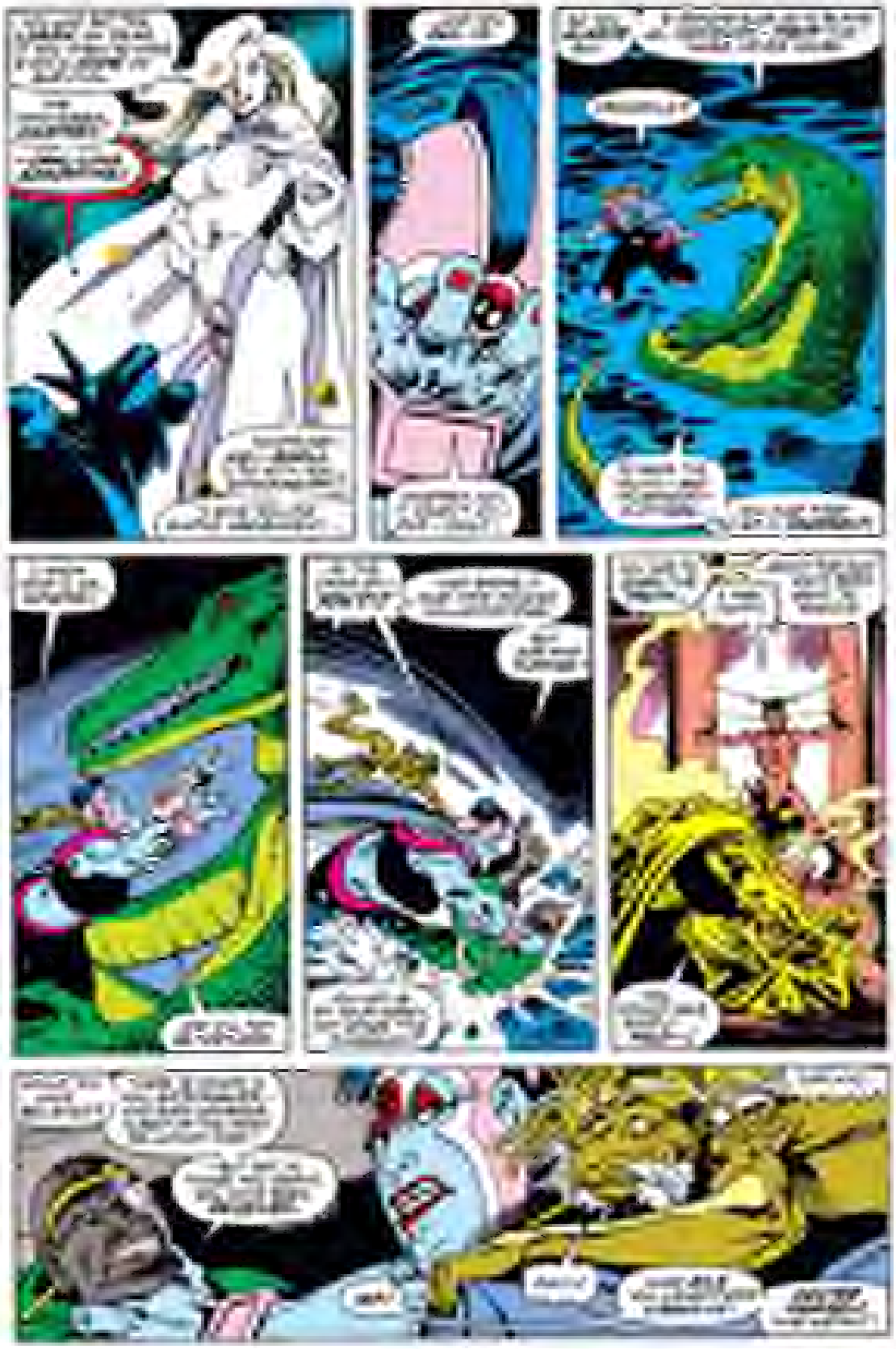
AND WITH HER TOUCH, THE GUARD FINDS HIS CONSCIOUSNESS INSTANTLY EXPANDED ACROSS THE INFINITE BREADTH OF THE OMNIVERSE...

YOU MAY PLAY WITH YOUR TOY, PET.
BUT KINDLY RESTRAIN YOUR BASER APPETITES.
Muh-mother--
--I sense POWER here...
...and DANGER!

YAP, YOU'RE SUCH A NINNY.
WHAT IS THERE ON THIS PATHETIC ORB THAT COULD POSSIBLY THREATEN US?
DOCTOR CROCODILE, I PRESUME.
Hssst!
FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I SUGGEST YOU RELEASE JAMES BRADDOCK INTO MY CUSTODY.
AND I SUGGEST YOU REMOVE YOURSELVES FROM MY DOMAIN...
...WHILE YOU'RE STILL ABLE--
--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
I FEEL HAPPY I FEEL HAPPY

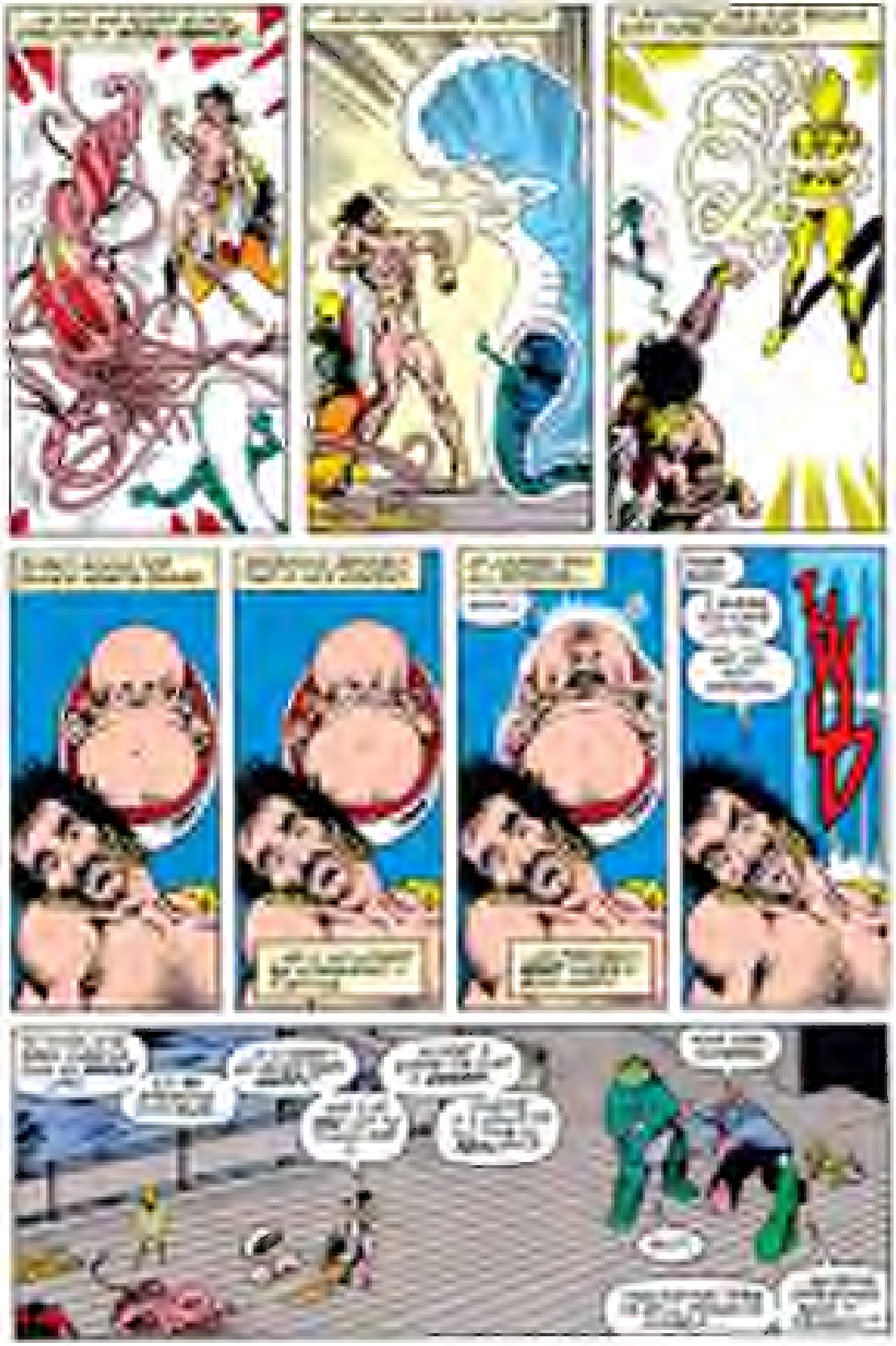


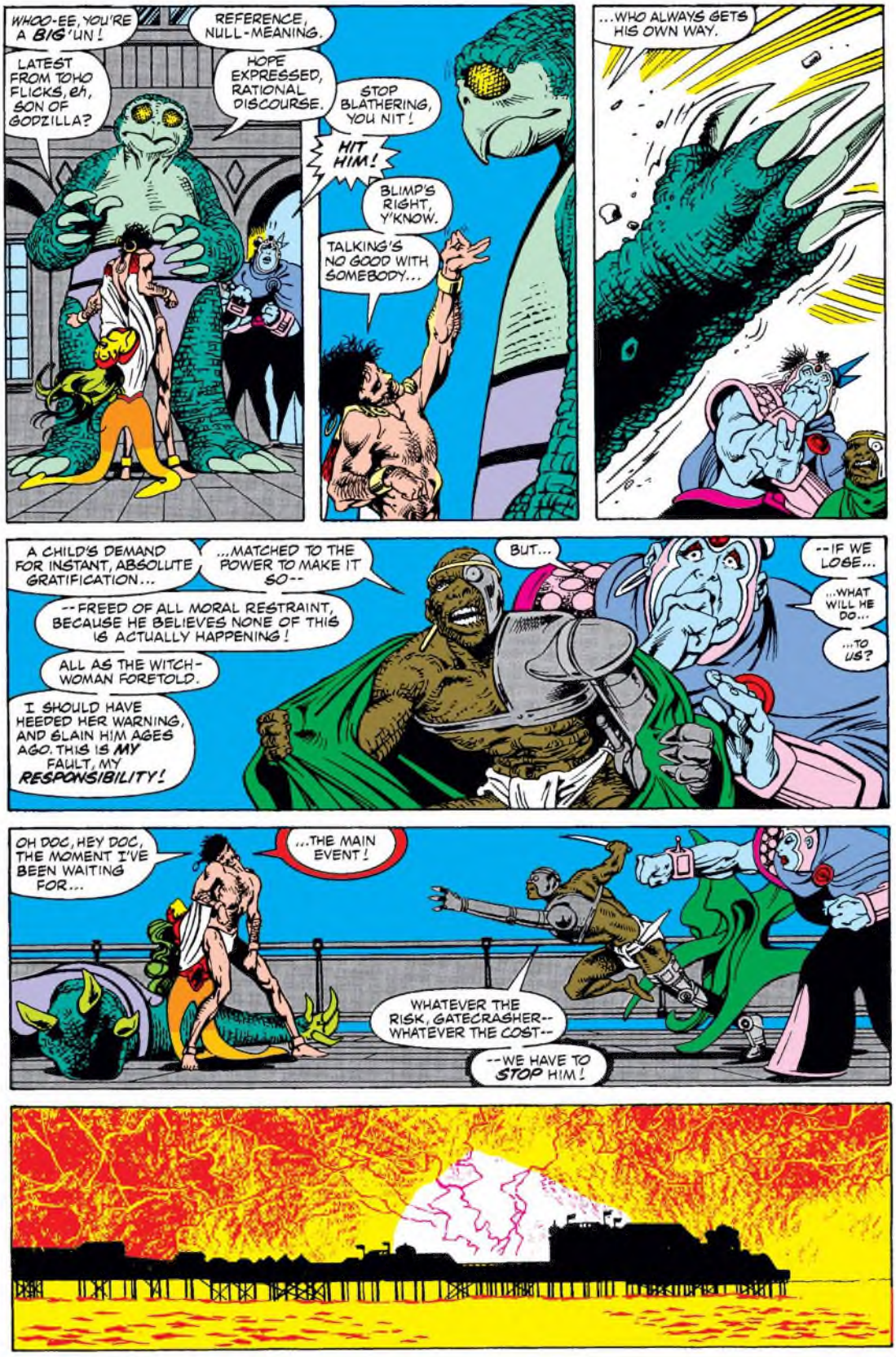

ANOTHER EARTH...
ANOTHER LONDON...
ANOTHER ALISTAIRE AND ALYSANDE STUART.
SORT OF.
WON'T HURT A BIT!
WELL, NOT MUCH.
WELL, NOT TOO MUCH.
IT'S A SIMPLE PROCEDURE, REALLY.
BUT SUPPOSE WE DON'T WANT OUR BRAINS SWITCHED!
"DON'T WANT--?"
BUT-- WHYEVER NOT?!
IT'S FOR SCIENCE!
YOU'RE A LOONEY!
I TRUST WE'RE INTERRUPTING.
EEK!
CAN'T YOU USE THE FRONT DOOR, LIKE NORMAL FOLKS?
Ahh-- BUT WE'RE NOT "NORMAL."
WE'VE DONE AS YOU ASKED, GATHERED EVERYTHING YOU REQUESTED, COMPLETED OUR PART OF THIS UNHOLY BARGAIN. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
HEEL, MEGGAN-- HEEL!
ALISTAIRE BELONGS TO ME!
HIS SPIRIT SO NOBLE, HIS BLOOD SO RICH, I CAN'T WAIT--
SHADOWCAT. AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH...
...WE DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THINGS, RIGHT AT THE END, NOW DO WE?
NO, WE DON'T!
KITTY PRYDE-- BEHAVE!
IF YOU'LL KINDLY TRANSFORM EVERYONE BACK THE WAY THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE-- ESPECIALLY THE DUCK--
--WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.
WAUGGH!

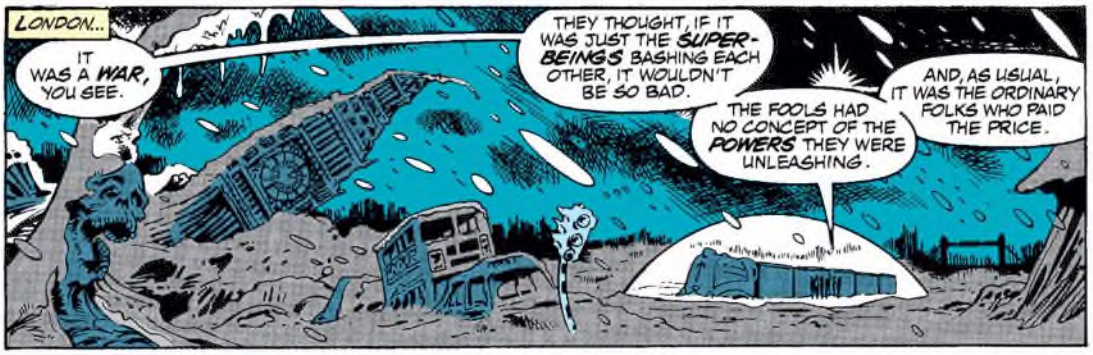


ZAP

¡ARG!

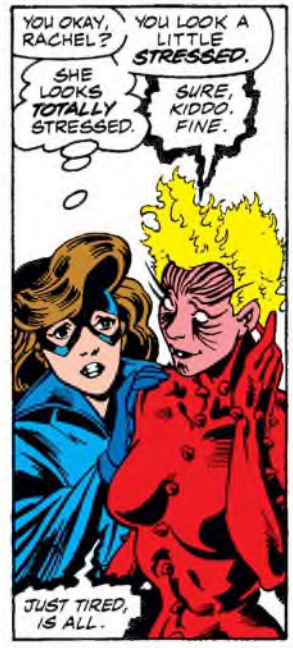


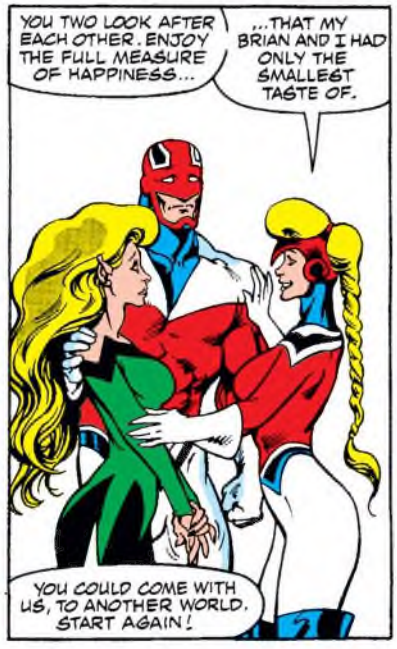

WHOO-EE, YOU'RE A BIG'UN!
LATEST FROM TOHO FLICKS, eh, SON OF GODZILLA?
REFERENCE, NULL-MEANING.
HOPE EXPRESSED, RATIONAL DISCOURSE.
STOP BLATHERING, YOU NIT!
HIT HIM!
BLIMP'S RIGHT, Y'KNOW.
TALKING'S NO GOOD WITH SOMEBODY...
...WHO ALWAYS GETS HIS OWN WAY.
A CHILD'S DEMAND FOR INSTANT, ABSOLUTE GRATIFICATION...
...MATCHED TO THE POWER TO MAKE IT SO--
--FREED OF ALL MORAL RESTRAINT, BECAUSE HE BELIEVES NONE OF THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING!
ALL AS THE WITCH-WOMAN FORETOLD.
I SHOULD HAVE HEEDED HER WARNING, AND SLAIN HIM AGES AGO. THIS IS MY FAULT, MY RESPONSIBILITY!
BUT...
--IF WE LOSE...
...WHAT WILL HE DO...
...TO US?
OH DOC, HEY DOC, THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
...THE MAIN EVENT!
WHATEVER THE RISK, GATECRASHER-- WHATEVER THE COST--
--WE HAVE TO STOP HIM!

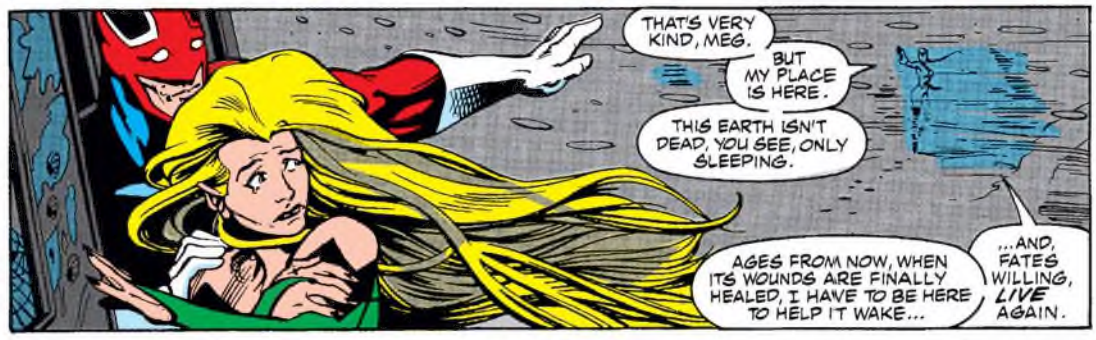

LONDON...
IT WAS A WAR, YOU SEE.
THEY THOUGHT, IF IT WAS JUST THE SUPER-BEINGS BASHING EACH OTHER, IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD.
THE FOOLS HAD NO CONCEPT OF THE POWERS THEY WERE UNLEASHING.
AND, AS USUAL, IT WAS THE ORDINARY FOLKS WHO PAID THE PRICE.

ISN'T... ANYTHING LEFT, MEGGAN?
WHAT YOU SEE, PHOENIX, IS WHAT WE'VE GOT.
LONDON FARED BETTER THAN MOST.
NEW YORK'S A CRATER A HUNDRED KILOMETERS ACROSS, THANKS TO DR. DOOM.
HE USED AN ANTI-MATTER BOMB TO ELIMINATE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.
BUT THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.

AND YOU, MEGGAN, ARE THIS WORLD'S CAPTAIN BRITAIN?
AFTER MY BRIAN WAS KILLED, SEEMED THE THING TO DO.


YOU OKAY, RACHEL?
YOU LOOK A LITTLE STRESSED.
SHE LOOKS TOTALLY STRESSED.
SURE, KIDDO. FINE.
JUST TIRED, IS ALL.


YOU TWO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER. ENJOY THE FULL MEASURE OF HAPPINESS...
...THAT MY BRIAN AND I HAD ONLY THE SMALLEST TASTE OF.
YOU COULD COME WITH US, TO ANOTHER WORLD. START AGAIN!


THAT'S VERY KIND, MEG.
BUT MY PLACE IS HERE.
THIS EARTH ISN'T DEAD, YOU SEE, ONLY SLEEPING.
AGES FROM NOW, WHEN ITS WOUNDS ARE FINALLY HEALED, I HAVE TO BE HERE TO HELP IT WAKE...
...AND, FATES WILLING, LIVE AGAIN.

BRIGHTON...
...'OUR" EARTH...
DUM-DE-DUM! TWEEDLE-HE-HEE!
WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO
DECISIONS DECISIONS DECISIONS
IF I MAY BE OF SERVICE, MR. BRADDOCK?
I HAVE A CAR WAITING...
...AND AN OFFER WHICH, I TRUST, YOU CANNOT REFUSE.
HAVE TO BE A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE OFFER, SWEETIE.
COULD I INTEREST YOU, SIR...
...IN DOMINION OVER HALF THE WORLD?
SHALL I CONTACT RESOLUTIONS, MR. FROBISHER, AND HAVE THEM DEAL WITH GATECRASHER?
ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF, MARCELLA, COURTESY OF MR. BRADDOCK.
THEY'LL BE NO TROUBLE.
I DO SO LOVE IT WHEN A CAPER COMES TO A SPLENDIDLY PROFITABLE CONCLUSION.
PROB'LY CUZ IT SO RARELY HAPPENS.
REPROBATE! I'LL NOT ALLOW YOU...
...TO SPOIL MY MOOD.
PAINT
YO, ROSANNE!
THA'S IT, I'M THROUGH, I'M DONE, I'LL PUT UP WI' NO MORE!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, THUG? HAVING TO TAKE A BATH?
NAY! FINDING THIS WEE BEASTIE IN ME TUB!
I'LL NAE TELL'EE AGAIN, GATECRASHER--
--KEEP YUIR BLUIDY PETS T' YUIRSELF!

ELSEWHERE...
...ONE FINAL TIME...
STOP
NEXT:
KURT WAGNER--
WARLORD!